

Claims 1, 13 and 22 include “at least one watched party defined rule stored in said processor (means, claim 22 only)” (claims 13 and 22) or “determining that said watched party is accessible by said at least one device based upon a set of watched party defined rules.” (Claim 1). Applicant respectfully points out that none of the portions of Staples cited by the Examiner discloses, teaches or suggests a “watched party defined rule.” Additionally, the portions of Staples that are not cited by the Examiner also fail to disclose “watched party defined rules.” The only thing that Staples discloses is that a remote user logs into the system and the system forwards all communications to that remote user in accordance with remote contact information previously provided by the remote user. This is not the same as a user defined rule such as “I will not accept instant messages after 9 pm”, etc. (See. page 11, lines 2-7 of application). Accordingly, since this element is not disclosed by Staples, independent claims 1, 13 and 22 are novel and applicant respectfully requests that they be allowed.

Claims 13 and 22 also include “wherein said processor (means, claim 22 only) is configured to provide a watching party with at least a subset of said contact information based upon said at least one watched party defined rule.” Not only is this element not disclosed in Staples, but Staples actually teaches away from this element. According to the portion of Staples cited by the Examiner (Col. 2, Line 60 to col. 3, Line 67 and in particular col. 3, lines 30-38) rather than informing the watching party of a subset of the contact information, the device in Staples is “routed to the user as if the remote user were physically present in the corporate office. Therefore, a . . . party who telephones the user at the corporate office, or sends email or a fax. . . is unaware that the user is actually not physically located at the corporate office. . .” Therefore, rather than providing the calling party with contact information, the device of Staples hides the called party’s actual contact information from the calling party. Since this element is also not

present in Staples, Claims 13 and 22 are novel over Staples for this reason as well and should be allowed.

Additionally, Claim 1 includes “determining that said watched party has access to said multiple access network via at least one device.” However, there is no such determination made in Staples. Staples does not determine, for example, that the called party is available for email but not fax, or by telephone but not by email. The only thing that Staples discloses is that a remote user logs in to the system and then may access telephone calls, emails, faxes, etc as though the remote user was physically located in the office. This is different from determining if the “watched party has access to said multiple access network via at least one device.” Accordingly, since this element is not disclosed by Staples, Claim 1 is novel and applicants respectfully requests that it be allowed.

Since the independent claims are novel over Staples for at least the reasons discussed above, the claims which depend therefrom are also novel for at least the same reasons. Accordingly, applicant respectfully requests that these claims be allowed as well.

No new matter has been added.

No additional fee is required.

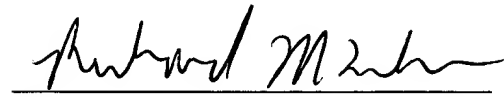
The citation of U.S. Patent Nos. 5,696,900, 6,023,762, 6,437,818 and 6,457,060 are respectfully acknowledged. However, these patents are deemed to lack facts which detract from the patentability of the claims.

The claims are proper and definite. Allowance is accordingly in order and respectfully requested. However should the Examiner deem that further clarification of the record is in order,

we invite a telephone call to Applicant's undersigned attorney, to expedite further processing of the application to allowance.

Respectfully submitted,

Dated: December 30, 2002



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